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existent. The local governments in Sharja and Dibai assume responsibility for the maintenance of quarantine stations under the supervision of the quarantine medical officer stationed at the British Residency for the Persian Gulf, at Bahrain. 744

There are few medical facilities. A 12-bed hospital, financed by contributions from local residents, was constructed at Dibai in 1951. The hospital and its outpatient clinics are administered by a British physician. At the same time, plans were under discussion for the opening of a hospital at 'Ajman under the direction of a Presbyterian mission doctor. 743

The Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd. established a dispensary with 4 beds for emergency cases in connection with its drilling operations in 1949. It not only serves the employees of the company but furnishes some of the inhabitants in the area with treatment. Members of the staff of the Arabian Mission of the Reformed Church of America, in Muscat, make occasional medical tours to the Trucial Coast, usually working from temporary headquarters at Dibai.

DISEASES

Little is known regarding the prevalence of different diseases in Trucial Oman. The reports of medical observers are fragmentary, and the only statistics available are those from the oil company dispensaries, which cover selected groups of the population seen over a space of a few years. Undernutrition and vitamin deficiencies are widespread, and are reputed to contribute to high mortality rates, particularly in young children. 164 146 165 164

Diseases Spread or Contracted Chiefly Through Intestinal or Urinary Tract

Amebic and bacillary dysentery are prevalent, as in other territories where the levels of sanitation are low and flies abundant. Typhoid fever is endemic, but epidemics are rare, since most individuals develop a 164 364

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63:Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1951) 1954
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Public health and medical services are almost nonexistent. One 12-bed private hospital was in operation in Dibai, the largest town, in 1951. In addition, a dispensary was maintained by the Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd., mainly for the benefit of its employees. Temporary clinics are established at Dibai from time to time by medical personnel from the mission hospital at Muscat. Water supplies are scarce and limited to the northern section of the territory: the littoral west of Abu Dhabi is arid and virtually uninhabited. Water for domestic use and for irrigation is obtained from wells, springs and rain-water cisterns.

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